



CATHOLIC CONNECTION

A PARISH EVANGELIZATION RESOURCE

“The Church exists in order to evangelize.” Evangelii Nuntiandi, Pope Paul VI.



Community Corner



Go and Make Disciples, USCCB – Goal 3:

To foster gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family and the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Cleaning House

Saturdays are usually my day to catch up on household chores. However, I recently met someone whose story gave a whole new meaning to cleaning my own home.

About fifty people recently experienced a day with the homeless through a program offered by the Archdiocese of Louisville Ministry Institute.

We met at the Cathedral, and then went in groups of five to various homeless shelters. My group was given a tour of a shelter and we met a mom who shared her story. The mother, her husband, and teenage daughter recently went from living in a rented house to living in a homeless shelter.

The mom shared with us how they are working toward getting back on their feet and being in their own home. She just wants to clean her own home again, cook meals in her own kitchen, and let the dog out to their own backyard.

What do I hear when I read John 12: 8, *Jesus said, ‘You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.’* What do I hear when I read Matthew 25: 45, *Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.*

My sincere gratitude goes out to all those people who serve at the shelters – and there are quite a few in our very generous city. After my experience, I feel compelled to serve too. www.faithfulcitizenship.org/resoures/podcasts is a great resource from USCCB regarding social justice.

Parish Corner



Making the Easter Connection.

Like Christmas, Easter is a time to welcome those who celebrate with us in our parishes.

What do you do as a parish to make people feel welcome? I would like to hear what you do, and then I can pass some of those wonderful ideas along to others.

Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. Hebrews 13: 2

“When hospitality permeates the whole of parish life, we become a welcoming community. We develop a sense of mission that adopts an attitude of being hospitable in all that we do.” *Christian Hospitality – A Handbook for Parishes, Archdiocese of Louisville*

Think Ahead –“BeFriends” in Your Parish

*Think “Befrienders”
when planning parish budgets!*

What: The mission of the BeFriender Ministry is to educate, form, and support men and women as leaders for a listening ministry of care.”

Why: BeFriender Ministry helps meet the growing need for pastoral care and provides parish volunteers an opportunity to live out their call to ministry. The national office provides leadership training and the tools and information needed for leaders to train parish volunteers.

When and Where: Our Archdiocese will be offering training the week of Nov. 10-13.

Info: Call 502-636-0296, the Office of Pastoral Care. This ministry is supported by the Offices of Family Ministries, Pastoral Care, and Communications / Evangelization.

A New Study



A study released February 25, 2008, from the *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life / U.S. Religious Landscape Survey*, provides the following information regarding religious affiliation:

Groups that have experienced a net loss from changes in affiliation include Baptists (net loss of 3.7 percentage points) and Methodists (2.1 percentage points). However, the group that has experienced the greatest net loss by far is the Catholic Church. Overall, 31.4% of U.S. adults say that they were raised Catholic. Today, however, only 23.9% of adults identify with the Catholic Church, a net loss of 7.5 percentage points. pg. 23

The report also discusses the overall growth in the number of persons who identify themselves as unaffiliated with any church.

This study will inform us as we consider new approaches to evangelization. For the whole report go to: www.pewforum.org/surveys and click on The U.S. Religious Landscape Survey

On the Web



Do you believe people in our parishes have questions, but are too afraid to ask? Two great websites where they can ask those burning questions they wouldn't dare ask in person:

www.bustedhalo.com, click on "Ask Fr. Joe";

www.OnceCatholic.org (You can also access this through our website, archlou.org, in the *Catholic Connection* link.) The mission of OnceCatholic.org is to put you back in touch with a face-to-face community of Catholics. Along the way, they want to walk with you as you sort through your issues with the Church. You can find out more about them at their web site www.AmericanCatholic.org.

In our age of technology, passing along reliable websites is important!

Book Review



Toward an Adult Church – A Vision of Faith Formation by Jane E. Regan, Loyola Press

The following is a quote from my favorite section, "Evangelization and the Call for Adult Faith Formation":

Beginning at the time of Vatican Council II and reflected in the council's documents, the concept of "evangelization" has risen to the surface of Catholic consciousness as a way to speak about the fundamental work of the church. In some of the most recent church writings these two strands – the call for adult faith formation and the challenge of evangelization – have coalesced, and their mutual inter-relationship has become clear: the work of evangelization requires a mature faith community made possible by the ongoing work of adult faith formation. pg. 19

*Wishing you a
blessed Holy Week
and a
joyful Easter Season!*



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